**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1. - 96. (Cancelled)

97. (Currently Amended) A connector for connecting a preform, which is for a microstructured fibre and which preform comprises a plurality of holes, to a pressure source, the connector comprising a plurality of chambers, ~~elements~~ wherein each chamber is arranged to mate with one or more of the holes of a preform, and wherein at least one of the chambers is arranged to mate with a plurality of holes of a preform, and each chamber ~~element~~ being connectable to a pressure source.

98. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 97, in which different ones of the ~~elements~~ chambers arranged to mate are connectable, individually or in groups, to different pressure sources.

99. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 97, further comprising a plurality of apertures arranged to receive ends of one or more of the tubes preform comprising ~~in which the preform comprises~~ a plurality of tubes, wherein the chambers are arranged so that tubes received by said apertures terminate in said chambers ~~and the elements are chambers in which one or more of the tubes terminate~~.

100. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in **[[**59**]]** 97, in which each chamber is in fluid communication with a passage that is connectable to the pressure source.

101. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 99, in which the chambers are distributed in the connector in a plane substantially orthogonal to the direction in which **[[**the**]]** tubes of a preform connected to the connector are intended to pass through the apertures.

102. (Previously Presented) A connector as claimed in 101, in which the chambers are adjacent to the apertures.

103. (Previously Presented) A connector as claimed in 102, in which the chambers are recesses in a side of the connector.

104. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim **[[**97**]]** 99, in which the chambers are distributed in the connector along the direction in which **[[**the**]]** tubes of a preform connected to the connector are intended to pass through the apertures.

105.-107. (Cancelled)

108. (New) A connector as claimed in claim 99, adapted to receive tubes of different lengths.

109. (New) A connector as claimed in claim 99, wherein at least one dimension of each chamber orthogonal to the direction in which tubes of a preform

connected to the connector are intended to pass through the apertures is larger than the diameter of the individual tubes.

110. (New) A connector as claimed in claim 97, wherein at least one of said plurality of chambers is arranged to mate with a plurality of holes of a preform.

111. (New) A connector for connecting a preform to a pressure source, the connector comprising a plurality of chambers arranged in a stack, each chamber comprising a base comprising holes going through the base providing passage from the chamber to a neighbouring chamber in said stack, said chambers being connectable to a pressure source.

112. (New) A connector as claimed in claim 111, wherein said holes in said bases of said chambers are adapted to allow passage of a tubular shaped object from one chamber to a neighbouring chamber.

113. (New) A connector for connecting a preform to a pressure source, the connector comprising a first side and a second side, said first side comprising a plurality of recesses, said connector further comprising passages passing through said connector from said recesses in said first side to said second side of said connector.

114. (New) A connector comprising a plurality of sections arranged in a stack extending in a longitudinal direction from a first end to a second end, each section including a chamber and a plurality of holes extending longitudinally from the respective chamber in that section through to the first end of the stack, each of said chambers also including a respective passage connecting the respective chamber to

a port on the respective section so that each chamber is individually connectable to a respective pressure source.